



Public Law 91-418  
91st Congress, H. R. 16968  
September 25, 1970

84 STAT. 869

## An Act

To increase the contribution by the Federal Government to the cost of health benefits insurance, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) section 8906(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:*

"(a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this section, the biweekly Government contribution for health benefits for employees or annuitants enrolled in health benefits plans under this chapter shall be adjusted, beginning on the first day of the first pay period of each year, to an amount equal to 40 percent of the average of the subscription charges in effect on the beginning date of the adjustment, with respect to self alone or self and family enrollments, as applicable, for the highest level of benefits offered by—

- "(1) the service benefit plan;
- "(2) the indemnity benefit plan;
- "(3) the two employee organization plans with the largest number of enrollments, as determined by the Commission; and
- "(4) the two comprehensive medical plans with the largest number of enrollments, as determined by the Commission."

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) of this section shall become effective at the beginning of the first applicable pay period which commences after December 31, 1970. Effective date.

SEC. 2. (a) Section 8901(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows: 80 Stat. 600.

"(B) a member of a family who receives an immediate annuity as the survivor of an employee or of a retired employee described by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;"

(b) Section 8901(3)(D)(i) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking out ", having completed 5 or more years of service".

SEC. 3. (a) Section 8701(a)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and the Panama Canal Zone" immediately before the semicolon at the end thereof.

(b) Section 8901(1)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and the Panama Canal Zone" immediately before the semicolon at the end thereof.

SEC. 4. (a) The Retired Federal Employees Health Benefits Act (74 Stat. 849; Public Law 86-724) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 2(4) is amended by inserting immediately before the period at the end thereof a comma and the following: "and includes the Social Security Administration for purposes of supplementary medical insurance provided by part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act";

(2) Sections 4(a) and 6(a) are each amended by adding at the end thereof the following sentence: "The immediately preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to the plan for supplementary medical insurance provided by part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act."; and

Government employees health benefits.  
Government contribution, increase.  
81 Stat. 219.

79 Stat. 301;  
81 Stat. 874.  
42 USC 1395j-  
1395w.

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74 Stat. 851.

(g) Section 9 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following subsection:

"(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be no recovery of any payments of Government contributions under section 4 or 6 of this Act from any person when, in the judgment of the Commission, such person is without fault and recovery would be contrary to equity and good conscience."

Effective date.

(b) The amendments made by subsection (a) of this section shall become effective on January 1, 1971.

Approved September 25, 1970.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 91-1084 (Comm. on Post Office and Civil Service).  
SENATE REPORT No. 91-1151 accompanying S. 1772 (Comm. on Post Office and Civil Service).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 116 (1970):

July 9, considered and passed House.  
Sept. 1, S. 1772 considered and passed Senate; proceedings vacated.  
Sept. 1, considered and passed Senate; motion entered to reconsider vote; House requested to return bill.  
Sept. 9, House agreed to return bill.  
Sept. 9, Senate reconsidered and passed H.R. 16968, amended, in lieu of S. 1772.  
Sept. 10, House agreed to Senate amendments with an amendment.  
Sept. 14, Senate concurred in House amendment.